

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: THGA, ETRD, MILI, PFOR, TU, US
SUBJECT: LOCKHEED

REF: (A) ANKARA 9801, (B) ANKARA 9824

1. LOCKHEED AGAIN RECEIVED HEAVY PLAY IN TURKISH PRESS ON
DECEMBER 30. ALL NATIONAL CIRCULATION PAPERS REPORTED DEFEAT
IN GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (GNA) OF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE TRAVEL
TO US OF TEAM OF SIX DEPUTIES FROM LOCKHEED PARLIAMENTARY
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (REF A, PARA 4). VOTE COUNT NOT REPORTED
BUT WE UNDERSTAND MOTION LOST BY SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN. IN
COURSE OF DEBATE PRIMIN DEMIREL MADE STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS
PARTY'S DESIRE THAT FACTS OF CASE BE REVEALED BUT POINTING
OUT AGAIN (REF A, PARA 3) THAT TRANSACTION WHICH PRECEIPITATED
PRESENT INQUIRY TOOK PLACE IN 1974 WHEN RPP-NSP COALITION
HEADED BY ECEVIT WAS IN POWER. HE SAID IT WAS HIS (DEMIREL'S)
GOVERNMENT THAT HAD TAKEN IMMEDIATE ACTION, WHEN BRIBERY
CHARGES FIRST AROSE, TO OBTAIN AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PROSECUTORS DOCUMENTS FROM US
RELATING TO CASE. RPP SPOKESMEN COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENT
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THAT WHILE "JUDICIAL RESULTS" HAD BEEN OBTAINED IN OTHER
COUNTRIES, TURKEY WAS WASTING TIME ON PROCEDURAL ARGUMENTS.
SAME SPOKESMEN ALSO SAID AFFAIR DID NOT CONCERN ONLY 1974
PURCHASES. LOCKHEED HAD HAD "MANYSIDED" RELATIONS WITH
TURKEY SINCE 1966 AND INVESTIGATION SHOULD COVER
LOCKHEED DEALINGS WITH TURKEY IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

2. IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH HURRIYET, WHICH ON DECEMBER 29 HAD REPORTED "CANCELLATION" OF US AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY DOCUMENTS (REF B), MINISTER OF JUSTICE MUFTUOGLU STATED THAT AGREEMENT HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN DENOUNCED BUT DISAGREEMENT AS TO ITS INTERPRETATION HAD ARISEN AND WAS BEING WORKED OUT. THRUST OF STATEMENT WAS THAT US DEPT OF JUSTICE (USDJ) HAD NOT BEEN AWARE THAT TURKISH PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION "HAS JUDICIAL POWERS", THAT A DETAILED REPORT CLEARING UP MISUNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY TURKISH SIDE, AND THAT HE HOPED US SIDE WOULD CHANGE STAND AFTER STUDYING CLARIFICATION.

3. FINALLY, MILLIYET CARRIED ITEM BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT CITING USDJ PRESS SPOKESMAN TO EFFECT THAT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO JUSTICE MINISTRIES HAD BEEN "POSTPONED" AS FURTHER EXPLANATION AND INTERPRETATION REGARDING ITS IMPLEMENTATION WAS REQUIRED. CORRESPONDENT ALSO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL DOCUMENTS IN USDJ'S POSSESSION RELATING TO CASE HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO GOT.

4. COMMENT. ASIDE FROM WELCOME DECISION OF GNA NOT TO AUTHORIZE PARLIAMENTARIANS' TRIP TO US, MOST SIGNIFICANT OF FOREGOING DEVELOPMENTS SEEMS TO US TO BE FACT THAT PRIMIN DEMIREL HAS NOW BEEN COMPELLED TO WEIGH IN ON CASE. WE WOULD EXPECT REJOINDER AT SOME POINT NOT ONLY FROM ECEVIT BUT POSSIBLY FROM CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN OF NSP, WHICH WAS COALITION PARTNER IN 1974 WITH RPP AS IT NOW IS WITH JP. THIS WOULD GREATLY INCREASE LIKELIHOOD OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCKHEED'S BECOMING AN ISSUE IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTORAL POWER STRUGGLE.
MACOMBER

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